



## **TIBET INSIGHT JUNE 21-30, 2025**

### **TAR NEWS**

#### **TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met Li Xiaohong, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering in Lhasa**

Tibet Daily WeChat Official Account: June 27, 2025

Wang Junzheng, TAR Party Secretary met Li Xiaohong, Party Secretary and President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), and his delegation.

Wang Junzheng said “the Chinese Academy of Engineering has conscientiously implemented the decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee, united and rallied academicians and engineers, actively participated in the construction of a new, modern socialist Tibet, and contributed its expertise and advice in major project construction and industrial technology breakthroughs.” He expressed the hope that the Chinese Academy of Engineering would continue to care for and support the TAR, serve major national strategies and jointly undertake China’s major scientific and technological projects in Tibet.

Li Xiaohong responded that “the Chinese Academy of Engineering will thoroughly implement the instructions of Xi Jinping and the decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee, fully leverage its own strengths, gather the wisdom and strength of academicians and experts, and continue to make efforts in major strategic consulting, industrial technology breakthroughs, and the cultivation of innovative talents and teams, to better support the construction of a new, modern socialist Tibet.

#### **China-appointed Panchen Lama arrived in Lhasa on June 27 for his annual visit**

Tibet Daily: June 28, 2025

Gyaltzen Norbu, Member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Vice President of the Buddhist

Association of China, and President of its Tibet Branch, arrived in Lhasa by plane on June 27, to begin his “official duties, social research, and religious activities in the TAR.” He was welcomed by Sonam Nyima, Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Minister of the TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD); and TAR PPCC Vice Chairpersons Zhukhang Thupten Khedup and Salong Pingla.

Later, when the China-appointed Panchen Lama arrived at his residence, he was welcomed by Liu Jiang (Executive Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission, and Party Secretary of the TAR PPCC), Xiao Youcai (Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary of Lhasa), Gyare LoBsang Tenzin and Zhu Shouke (Vice Chairmen of the TAR People’s Government), and Pema Wangdui and Yu Yungui (Vice Chairmen of the TAR PPCC). They extended greetings on behalf of the TAR Party Committee, TAR People’s Congress, TAR People’s Government, and TAR PPCC.

### **TAR Party Secretary met the Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council**

China Tibet News Network : June 29, 2025

Wang Junzheng, TAR Party Secretary recently met Wang Yonghong, Deputy Secretary-General of the CCP’s State Council and Director of the National Government Offices Administration, and his delegation. In his speech Wang Junzheng said that currently, the TAR is earnestly carrying out in-depth study and education to implement the spirit of the CCP central government’s "eight-point decision on improving Party and government conduct", thoroughly implementing Xi Jinping’s important instructions on Tibet work and the Party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, and steadily advancing the "four major tasks" outlined by Xi Jinping for Tibet: stability, development, ecological protection, and border consolidation.

Wang Yonghong hoped that the TAR’s administrative affairs management departments would strengthen their capacity building, deepen centralized and unified management with high standards, coordinate service and guarantee resources with high quality, and efficiently implement various reform tasks. He emphasized the importance of identifying key entry points and points of strength for serving the overall situation, continuing to perform their functions well, and continuously improving management and service guarantee levels.

## NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI)

### **Xi Jinping “responds” to letters from Gala villagers, stresses stable border for the “motherland”**

Xinhua: June 29, 2025

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CCP Central Committee, President of the State, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, replied to letters sent by villages of Gala Village in Bayi District, Nyingtri, Tibet, expressing his earnest expectations. Xi Jinping said that upon seeing the letters he recalled his visit to Gala Village four years ago, adding that the beautiful and tidy village and the warm and simple villagers had left a deep impression on him. He was glad to learn that in recent years the village had undergone new changes and villagers' incomes had increased.

Xi Jinping emphasized that what everyone wrote in the letter was well said, he added: "Looking at the North Star, you won't lose your way; following the Communist Party, you will be happy." He hoped that under the guidance of the Party's favourable policies for border prosperity and enriching the people, the villagers would firmly safeguard ethnic unity, create an even happier and better life, protect the natural beauty of the snowy plateau, further polish the "Peach Blossom Village" brand, and contribute to building a prosperous and stable border for the motherland.

*(Comment: Xi Jinping visited Gala Village during his inspection in Tibet in July 2021, where he greeted the villagers. Gala Village is famous for its wild peach blossoms. Apparently, following Xi Jinping's guidance, the village has in recent years achieved new accomplishments in developing rural tourism, strengthening collective economy, and promoting ethnic unity, and has been awarded honours such as "National Model Collective for Ethnic Unity and Progress.)*

### **Report on the "Trans-Himalaya International Conference of Entrepreneurs" in Nyingtri, Tibet**

**Sources:** China News Service, Tibet Nyingtri Net, Tibet TV: June 27-30, 2025

The "Trans-Himalaya International Conference of Entrepreneurs" was held on June 27, 2025, in Nyingtri, Tibet, along the banks of the Niyang River, a tributary of the Yarlung Tsangpo/River. The conference, themed "Pooling Trans-Himalaya Strength, Releasing Development Momentum," was ostensibly aimed at fostering in-depth cooperation between countries along the Himalayan region and the international community. The event was organized by the TAR People's Government with support from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event drew over 150 participants of whom 27 were "international guests". The delegates included domestic experts, scholars, business leaders and representatives from 89 enterprises. Among them were diplomats from Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Chile. Prominent were Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Oli; the Ambassador of Nepal to China; Tanveer Ahmed Batti, Consul General of Pakistan in Chengdu; Lan Weiguang, President of the Singapore-China Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology Exchange; Liu Chunxiang, Vice Mayor of Nyingtri Municipal People's Government and representatives from well-known enterprises and industry associations from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Germany, and Bangladesh also participated, along with media reporters, ministry officials from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Medical Products Administration, and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The conference, which featured various discussions and activities, included a "Dialogue on Trans-Himalaya", which brought together representatives from Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, and Tibet to discuss issues of industrial innovation, cultural-tourism integration, and green economic development. Pablo Arriarán, the Ambassador of Chile to China, emphasized the similarities between Tibet's highland agriculture and Chile's plateau regions, suggesting cooperation in highland agriculture, particularly in areas such as climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation systems, and animal husbandry. Tanveer Ahmed Batti, Consul General of Pakistan in Chengdu, pointed out the topographical similarities between Tibet and northern Pakistan, suggesting greater cooperation between the two regions, including improved tourism links and direct flights between Lhasa or Nyingtri and Pakistan to facilitate two-way travel.

The "Belt and Road" Initiative was a central theme throughout the conference, with many participants highlighting the initiative's role in fostering economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and people-to-people connections between countries in the Himalayan region.

Extending the "Belt and Road" Initiative is reported to have helped Tibet have a pivotal role as a gateway to South Asia. Zhao Peng, Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government, emphasized that Tibet has strengthened regional cooperation, particularly in the development of open corridors such as railways, highways, and airports, as well as in the upgrading of the Trans-Himalaya multidimensional connectivity network. This progress is expected to continue, helping transform the region into a major economic corridor.

The conference also featured a Chinese government-enterprise project signing ceremony, where 11 cooperation projects totaling 4.805 billion yuan and spanning a range of sectors like cultural-tourism integration and technological innovation, were signed injecting new momentum into the construction of the Trans-Himalaya economic corridor.

On June 26, evening the participants attended the "Entrepreneurs' Night" event, and witnessed vibrant performances and participated in the Gongbu archery experience area, learning about traditional Tibetan archery under "expert guidance." Participants also visited the Southeastern Tibet Museum and Tsogo Township in Kongpo Gyamda County, gaining a deeper understanding of the region's history and cultural richness.

*(Comment:* India was not invited to the event. Many of the countries represented have no geographical association with the Himalayas and would have gone to explore trade opportunities as well as possibilities for mining minerals.)

## **LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN) NEWS**

### **CCP Central Committee issued subsidy funds to support "rural revitalisation" projects in Tibet**

Lhoka Finance Bureau: June 4, 2025

In accordance with the *Notice from the TAR Department of Finance on Issuing the 2025 Budget for CCP Central Committee Subsidy Funds to Support and Advance Rural Revitalization* (Document No. Zang Cai Nong Zhi [2025] 17), the Finance Bureau of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) City has issued the 2025 budget for subsidy funds to support and advance rural revitalization for Organization Departments, United Front Work Departments, Finance Bureaus, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureaus, and Development and Reform Commissions of all counties (districts, cities). The total allocated budget is 145.41 million yuan. The project

is titled “Central Government Subsidy Funds to Support and Advance Rural Revitalization.” All relevant departments are required to submit their final accounts to the Finance Bureau.

The Bureau said the allocation is designed to fully implement the guiding principles of the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress of the CCP, as well as the spirit of the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 20th CCP Central Committee. The budget emphasizes maintaining a generally stable proportion of funds allocated for industrial development, while continuously strengthening support for industries and employment. Priority is given to industries that involve, benefit, and enrich farmers, with an aim to improve mechanisms for linking interests and to address weaknesses and gaps in rural development.

All local departments are told to strengthen budget management to ensure the effective and efficient use of the funds.

### **Lhoka Held Awards and Special Training Conference 2025 for Technology-Based Enterprises**

Lhoka News: June 30, 2025,

On June 27, the Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, together with the Lhoka Municipal Finance Bureau and other relevant departments, held the 2025 Awards and Special Training Conference for Technology-Based Enterprises. Vice Mayor Zheng Chuanjing attended the event. The meeting emphasized the need to raise political awareness and enhance the sense of urgency and mission in scientific and technological innovation. It called for precise policy implementation to further advance scientific and technological innovation work to a new level, and for improving service efficiency.

During the training session, the organizers awarded funds to incentivise representatives of high-tech and technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage them to increase investment in innovation. Training included policy interpretation and case analysis to help enterprises better understand policy application processes, expense management, and other related knowledge, and improve their technological innovation management capabilities.

### **SHIGATSE (CH:XIGAZE)**

#### **TAR Party Secretary inspected Shigatse**

Tibet Daily: June 24, 2025

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng inspected Shigatse from June 18 to June 21. During his inspection, Wang Junzheng, stressed the importance of adhering to Xi Jinping’s thought on socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a new era, highlighted the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet, and the four major tasks/focuses in that regard i.e. stability, development, ecology, and border strengthening.

He spent days at the grassroots level, visiting sites, listening to work reports, examining local situations and stability maintenance. He expressed his gratitude and praised grassroots cadres for their “contributions to the socialist modernization of Tibet and encouraged them to improve their abilities to improve various aspects of governance.” Wang Junzheng inspected Dingri, Drongga and Kyirong Dzong and stressed the importance of strengthening Chinese nationalism/ “sense of the Chinese national community”, promoting “national unity” and told grassroots party cadres to use “historical facts of the exchanges and integration” between China and Tibet to promote social stability and harmony. He stressed that the ability of leaders must start with political capability, and all levels of leadership should be equipped with the Party's theory to guide practice and promote work. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing stability, maintaining the national security framework, and ensuring the development of social governance. Wang Junzheng called for the effective implementation of policies to promote the economy, ecology, and border security.

## **NGARI (CH: ALI)**

### **China gives lithium extraction clearance at top resources site in Tibet**

Tibetan Review: June 25, 2025

Tibetan Review, quoting a report by yicaiglobal.co June 24, disclosed that authorities of Ngari prefecture have given regulatory approval to a major lithium extraction project there, resulting in shares of Zangge Mining, which holds a stake in it, soaring to a record high. The project is located in the sparsely populated Gerze County where animal husbandry – which includes the raising of yak, dzo, sheep, goats, and horses – is the main economic activity of the locals. The report said shares of the Qinghai-based Zangge, a major Chinese producer of potash, lithium, and copper, also rose to a historic high of 42.88 Yuan (\$6) Jun 24, closing up 3% in Shenzhen.

The project is located at Mamicuo Salt Lake, roughly 84 km north of the town of Gerze, and covers an area of 115 square kilometres. It is known for significant lithium and boron resources as well as other valuable minerals, besides being rich in freshwater resources. Construction must begin within two years. The content of lithium resources here is said to be the highest in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

The total planned investment is 4.5 billion Yuan (\$637 million). Using adsorption techniques to extract lithium from brine, the project aims to produce 50,000 tons of battery-grade lithium carbonate annually, along with 17,000 tons of borax as a by-product. Construction is expected to take two years, with a projected 33-year mine life.

The project company is majority-owned (57.2%) by the Jiangsu Qinghai-Tibetan New Energy Industry Development Fund Partnership, a private equity fund. Through the fund, Zangge indirectly holds nearly 27% of the project company, ranking behind only the Fifth Geological Explore Team, which owns 31.5%. The Fifth Geological is controlled by the TAR government. Zangge's Board Secretary Li Ruixue had told investors in 2023 that the Mamicuo Salt Lake contained around 2.5 million tons of lithium chloride, equivalent to about 2.2 million tons of lithium carbonate, with production costs controlled within 25,000 Yuan (\$3,483) per ton.

However, the project's remote location – at an altitude of around 4,700 metres – and poor road infrastructure is said to pose logistical challenges for development. Zangge, China's second-largest potash producer, is already extracting lithium at Qarhan Salt Lake in Qinghai province. Last year, it produced 11,600 tons of lithium carbonate, generating 1 billion Yuan in revenue, which accounted for over 31% of the company's total income. The report said, according to its latest annual report, that operation contributed 491 million Yuan (\$68.4 million) in net profit.

The Mamicuo Salt Lake project is expected to contribute significantly to China's lithium production capacity and help meet the growing demand for lithium in the electric vehicle industry and other sectors. Mamicuo (also known as Mami Tso or Mami Cuo) is only one of several lithium-rich salt lakes in this region, the others being Laguocuo and Zhabuye.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TIBETAN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR**

**China's 7th Tibetan Buddhism Doctrinal Interpretation Seminar included Sinicization experts, party officials**

Tibetan Review: June 14, 2025

On June 12, as part of its ongoing campaign to Sinicize Tibetan Buddhism, China launched its 7th Tibetan Buddhism Doctrinal Interpretation Seminar in Lhasa. The two-day event, attended by over 900 participants, including monks, officials, scholars, and “experts”, was hosted by the Tibet Buddhism University under the Tibetology Research Centre.

At the opening ceremony, Drukhang Thupten Khedup, President of the Tibet Buddhism University, stressed the need to adapt Tibetan Buddhist teachings to modern development needs and align them with socialism with Chinese characteristics. He described the aim as turning doctrinal research into practical actions that support the "healthy inheritance" of Tibetan Buddhism and promote social harmony.

Fang Zichao, associate professor at Tibet Minzu University, highlighted the seminar’s role in encouraging Tibetan Buddhism to retain its core beliefs while consciously adapting to socialist values in the new era.

*(Comment: This seminar reflects China's broader strategy to subordinate Tibetan Buddhism to Communist Party ideology and Han-centric national identity goals. It includes imposing political loyalty over religious autonomy, controlling reincarnation and leadership, reframing teachings, restricting monastic practices, and promoting images of Chinese leaders while banning those of the Dalai Lama. The objective is to weaken the Tibetans' distinct cultural and religious identity and use Tibetan Buddhism as a tool to reinforce state control.)*

### **CCP CC Security Chief Chen Wengqing visited the Dalai Lama’s birthplace in Tibet**

SCMP: June 17, 2025

In what is seen as an escalation of crackdowns on Tibetans ahead of a potential announcement by the Dalai Lama regarding his reincarnation or the appointment of his successor after his 90th birthday on July 6, China’s top security official Chen Wenqing visited Qinghai province—the Dalai Lama’s birthplace - to emphasize defeating "separatism."

Politburo member and Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, Chen Wenqing conducted a three-day inspection tour in Qinghai that ended on June 15. He inspected security sites and religious and cultural institutions, reiterating Qinghai’s strategic importance

for maintaining stability in Xinjiang and Tibet. He called on local political and legal bodies to strictly manage ethnic and religious affairs, strengthen security, and resolutely combat Tibetan separatism.

Earlier, on June 6, President Xi Jinping met the China-appointed 11th Panchen Lama Gyaltsen Norbu (Gyaltsen Norbu) with a few other senior officials. Gyaltsen Norbu is expected to play a central role in providing religious legitimacy to China's plan to appoint its own 15th Dalai Lama reincarnation, despite lacking acceptance among Tibetans.

The Dalai Lama has repeatedly stated, including in his book 'Voice of the Voiceless' published in March, that he would be reincarnated outside China if the Tibet issue remains unresolved. Traditionally, the search for the next Dalai Lama relies on the instructions left by the predecessor, but China has introduced laws requiring any reincarnation search to happen within China and be approved by the state.

Historically, the Panchen Lama has played a role in recognizing the Dalai Lama's reincarnation, but this will be acceptable to the larger body of Tibetans only if he is recognized by the Dalai Lama. The 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, identified by the Dalai Lama, was abducted by Chinese authorities in 1995 and continues to be missing.

During the June 6 meeting, Xi urged the China-appointed Panchen Lama to continue the tradition of loyalty to the country and safeguard national unity. Following this meeting, Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Wang Junzheng gathered local officials to study Xi's speech, which stressed the central government's focus on Tibet's religious and social affairs. Wang Junzheng claimed Xi's message showed "care and affection" for Tibetans and provided guidance for further "Sinicizing" Tibetan Buddhism.

## **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Dalai Lama declares Gaden Phodrang Trust's exclusive mandate on his reincarnation discovery**

Tibetan Review: July 2, 2025

On July 2, the Dalai Lama publicly reaffirmed that the search for the 15<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama will be led by his Gaden Phodrang Trust with the proviso suggesting that it will take place outside

the control and precinct of the Communist Party of China-state. He stated that the Gaden Phodrang Trust is the only body authorised to conduct the search. The XIVth Dalai Lama declared, “I hereby reiterate that the Gaden Phodrang Trust has sole authority to recognize the future reincarnation; no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter.”

Meanwhile, participants in the three-day, 15th Tibetan Religious Conference, which kicked off on July 2 at Dharmshala, and at which the Dalai Lama delivered his statement via video-link, adopted a three-point resolution to express unanimous support for the Dalai Lama’s statement. The participants in the conference, “led by esteemed religious heads and realised masters of different religious traditions,” expressed support for “His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s precious words on this significant subject” and wanted “this statement (to) be made public far and wide.” The resolution sought to make it clear that “the core process of recognising the reincarnations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is as per the unique Tibetan Buddhist tradition,” and therefore not only “strongly condemned the People’s Republic of China’s usage of reincarnation subject for their political gain,” but also vowed to “never accept it.” The resolution also made it clear that “Tibetans both in and outside Tibet have made a pledge to maintain national unity of solidarity and continue to struggle for the just cause of Tibet in a bid to extend whole hearted cooperation to the fulfilment of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s noble wishes and aspirations.”

*(Comment: In his statement on the subject dated May 21, 2025, he said “over the last 14 years, leaders of Tibet’s spiritual traditions, members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, participants in a Special General Body Meeting of the Tibetan people), members of the Central Tibetan Administration, NGOs, Buddhists from the Himalayan region, Mongolia, Buddhist republics of the Russian Federation and Buddhists in Asia including mainland China, have written to me with reasons, earnestly requesting that the institution of the Dalai Lama continue.” The statement made it clear that the process by which a future Dalai Lama is to be recognized was clearly established in his statement on September 24, 2011, at the 11th Tibetan Religious Conference of the heads of Tibetan spiritual traditions. That statement, he said, “states that responsibility for doing so will rest exclusively with members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust, the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. They should consult the various heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are linked inseparably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should accordingly carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition.”)*

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